



For Immediate Release:
Friday, August 20, 2010

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Judicial Panel Accepting Applications to Fill the Van Wert Municipal Court Vacancy

Columbus, Ohio – The Ohio Judicial Appointments Recommendation Panel is currently accepting applications to fill the vacant seat on the Van Wert Municipal Court.

The seat became vacant on July 15, 2010 due to the resignation of Judge Phil W. Campbell.

Applicants for the Van Wert Municipal court position must be a resident and registered elector of Van Wert County and not yet 70 years old on the day they begin their duties, as dictated by Ohio law. In addition, they must be admitted to practice law in Ohio and have engaged in the practice of law for six years prior to assuming the judicial post or served as a judge of a court of record in any jurisdiction in the United States.

To continue service in the position, any appointee must run in the November 2011 general election.

In the case of all judicial vacancies, applicants must follow the guidelines set forth by the Ohio Judicial Appointments Recommendation Panel to ensure their eligibility for appointment.

Applications must be submitted directly to the judicial panel and will then be distributed to the at-large and regional panel members. Additional details about OJARP and the application process can be found on the OJARP Web site at www.ojarp.org.

All materials submitted by applicants for a judicial vacancy will be considered public record under Ohio law. Applicant communication with panel members must be directed to the entire panel; all attempts to contact or influence a panel member are prohibited. Applicant questions and concerns should be addressed to Kent Markus or Jeff Ruppert in the Governor's Office at (614) 466-3555.

Applications for the Van Wert Municipal Court appointment must be received by 5 p.m. on September 16th.

Candidates must be available to interview in person on September 30th in Columbus. Individual candidate times and interview locations will be determined at a later date.

Governor Strickland has selected the following individuals to serve on the regional panel for the Van Wert Municipal Court vacancy:

At-large Panel:

Janet E. Jackson (panel chair) – president and CEO of United Way of Central Ohio

Meg Flack – chair of the Ohio League of Women Voters

Doloris Learmonth – managing partner, Peck Shaffer and Williams LLP

John Kulewicz – attorney, Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease, LLP

Gary Leppla -- attorney, Leppla Associates and Counselors at Law; past president, Ohio State Bar Association

Van Wert Regional Panel:

Charles Koch – attorney, Koch Law Offices

Kurt Conn – Lieutenant, City of Van Wert Police Department

C. Allan Runser – attorney, Runser & Putman LLC

James Stripe – Director, Van Wert County Board of Developmental Disabilities / Thomas Edison Center

Allen Arnold – retired school administrator and teacher, Lincolview Local Schools and adjunct professor, Rhodes State Community College

Jeanne Zeigler – Deputy Director, Van Wert County Board of Elections